

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 021535Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9197
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
US MISSION GENEVA 589
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONGEN LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12467

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, US, UR, IS

SUBJECT: SOVIET JEWS WHO CHANGE DIRECTION IN VIENNA

REF: STATE 188625

1. DUE, WE ASSUME, TO THE INCREASING DROP-OUT RATE IN VIENNA THE NUMBER OF SOVIET JEWS ARRIVING ITALY HAS GROWN SHARPLY DURING PAST YEAR. FOR INSTANCE, INS ROME RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY 800 CONDITIONAL ENTRY APPLICATIONS FROM SOVIET JEWS IN JUNE 1976 (OUT OF A TOTAL OF 1145 APPLICATIONS FROM ALL CATEGORIES OF SOVIET REFUGEES) AS COMPATED TO 200 IN JUNE 1975 AND 250 IN JUNE 1974. FIGURES INCLUDE SMALL NUMBER OF JEWS WHO FIRST WENT TO ISRAEL AND SUBSEQUENTLY CAME HERE TO APPLY FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY.

2. EMBASSY CONCERNED THAT INCREASE MAY CAUSE GOI TO REXAMINE ITS PRESENT VERY LIBERAL POLICY OF ADMITTING REFUGEES TO ITALY FOR PROCESSING HERE BY US AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS ACCEPTING THEM FOR RESETTLEMENT. WHILE MOST REFUGEES MEET ENTRY REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR PREFERRED COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT A SMALL PERCENTAGE ARE FOUND INELIGIBLE ON POLITICAL, CRIMINAL OR OTHER GROUNDS. AS THESE INELIGIBLES ARE
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GENERALLY UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO OBTAIN RESETTLEMENT

ELSEWHERE THEY USUALLY REMAIN HERE IN VIOLATION OF TRANSIENT STATUS IN WHICH THEY WERE ADMITTED TO ITALY. THERE ARE NOW APPROXIMATELY 400 SOVIET JEWS HERE WHO ARE IN THIS SITUATION. WHILE GOI HAS TURNED A BLIND EYE TO THIS GROUP SO FAR, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT ITS ATTITUDE WILL CHANGE AS NUMBERS INCREASE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HERE, AND THAT ENTRY OF REFUGEES WILL BE CURTAILED.

3. IN CIRCUMSTANCES EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT VOLAGS ASSISTING REFUGEES SEEKING RESETTLEMENT USA SHOULD ARRANGE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF DROP-OUTS TRAVEL ELSEWHERE THAN ITALY FOR PROCESSING. INS DISTRICT DIRECTOR ROME HAS SUGGESTED FRANKFURT WOULD BE MOST FEASIBLE FROM POINT OF VIEW OF ALL CONCERNED. VOLPE

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